

Discussion & Forum on Substance Use & Mental Health Issues

In our families and in our community



*Monday, June 20, 2016
6:30-8:30pm
Newington Town Hall
Auditorium*



Dr. Charles Atkins is a board-certified psychiatrist, published author, member of the Yale volunteer faculty and clinical trainer. He is the Chief Medical Officer for Community Mental Health Affiliates (CMHA), a multi-site agency in New Britain that provides services to individuals with serious mental health and substance abuse issues.

In a country where over twenty million people have serious substance use problems and twice that number have at least one mental health disorder, there's still a lack of clear information on what to do and how to get help. **This open-forum discussion will begin with Dr. Atkins presenting an overview** of some of the current hot topics, from the opioid overdose epidemic, and high school suicide, to mental health issues affecting older adults—and everyone in the middle. A panel of community leaders, a family member and person in recovery will flesh out what should prove to be an important and informative event.

Panel: Moderated by Representative Gary Byron

Charles Atkins, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Community Mental Health Affiliates, New Britain
Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D, Commissioner, CT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Raul Pino, MD. MPH, Commissioner, CT Department of Public Health
Chinedu Okeke, MD, MPH-TM, MPA, Coordinator, Office of Injury & Violence Prevention, DPH
Charles Brown, MPH, Director of Health, Central Connecticut Health District
Karen Futoma, MSW, Director, Newington Human Services
Steve Clark, Chief, Newington Police Department
Jamie DeSimone, Community Service Officer, Newington Police Department
Sandy Pilz, Health & Wellness Educator, Newington Public Schools
Maureen Klett, RN, C, MSN, Town Councilor, Family Member, Newington
Allison Kernan, A Person in Recovery

This forum is a collaboration of Newington Human Services, Newington Police Department, Representative Gary Byron, Capital Area Substance Abuse Council, Central CT Health District and Lucy Robbins Welles Library